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Area Wage Survey
Northern New York
June 1985

U.S. Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Statistics
Summary
September 1985

This summary presents results of a June 1985 survey of occupational wages and supplementary benefits in the Northern New York area, which consists of Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence Counties. This is 1 of 99 areas which the Bureau of Labor Statistics surveys at the request of the Employment Standards Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor for use in administering the Service Contract Act of 1965. In addition, the Bureau conducts more extensive studies of occupational wages and related benefits in 71 other areas throughout the United States. For information on these reports and other Bureau publications, contact any BLS regional office identified on the back page.

This study covered establishments employing 50 workers or more in manufacturing; transportation, communication, and other public utilities; wholesale trade; retail trade; finance, insurance, and real estate; and selected services. A sample of 56 establishments employing 17,868 workers was selected to represent 133 establishments employing 26,368 workers in the area. (See table 5 for further information on the scope of the survey.) Data collected in the sample of establishments were projected to represent all establishments within the scope of the survey.

Table 1 provides hourly earnings information on office and plant workers employed in selected occupations common to a variety of industries. Tables 2, 3, and 4 present information on paid holidays, vacation pay provisions, and health, insurance, and pension plans for nonsupervisory production and related workers and office workers.

Occupational classification was based on a uniform set of job descriptions designed to take account of variations in job duties among establishments. The job descriptions used in the survey are available on request.

New or revised occupational descriptions are being introduced in this survey for word processors and material handling laborers.

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Table 1. Hourly earnings[1] of selected occupations in Northern New York, June 1985

Occupation[2]	Number of workers	Hourly earnings (all workers)[1]			Number of workers receiving straight-time hourly earnings (in dollars) of —																						
		Mean	Median	Middle range	3.35 and under 3.50	3.50 – 4.00	4.00 – 4.50	4.50 – 5.00	5.00 – 5.50	5.50 – 6.00	6.00 – 6.50	6.50 – 7.00	7.00 – 7.50	7.50 – 8.00	8.00 – 8.50	8.50 – 9.00	9.00 – 9.50	9.50 – 10.00	10.00 – 10.50	10.50 – 11.00	11.00 – 11.50	11.50 – 12.00	12.00 – 13.00	13.00 – 14.00	14.00 – 15.00	15.00 – 16.00	16.00 and over
Secretaries	114	7.82	7.44	6.06- 9.30	-	-	-	18	6	2	5	4	26	3	7	6	12	10	6	2	3	-	1	-	1	1	1
Secretaries I	32	6.03	4.90	4.64- 7.80	-	-	-	18	5	-	-	-	1	-	4	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Secretaries II	23	7.69	7.38	7.00- 8.67	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	3	9	-	1	4	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Secretaries III	38	8.21	7.45	7.39- 9.34	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	1	14	3	-	1	6	3	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Secretaries IV	18	9.41	9.71	8.67-10.10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	1	3	3	5	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stenographers	13	7.69	8.65	- -	-	2	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stenographers I	7	6.86	6.15	- -	-	2	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Switchboard operators	8	6.04	5.74	- -	-	-	-	-	2	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Key entry operators	73	6.63	6.05	4.89- 7.48	-	4	7	8	10	7	6	6	7	1	5	-	4	1	1	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-
Key entry operators I	48	7.23	6.83	5.77- 8.33	-	4	4	3	-	5	6	5	5	-	5	-	3	1	1	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-
Key entry operators II	25	5.49	5.26	4.75- 5.58	-	-	3	5	10	2	-	1	2	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Computer operators	32	7.94	7.25	5.33- 9.61	-	-	2	4	2	-	2	5	2	-	4	3	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-
Computer operators I	10	5.10	4.85	- -	-	-	2	4	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Computer operators II	17	9.36	8.97	6.81-10.17	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	2	-	1	3	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-
Peripheral equipment operators	8	9.49	6.39	- -	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Drafters	44	9.08	8.71	7.52-10.87	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	1	2	5	6	3	2	2	1	6	2	-	7	-	-	-	-
Drafters III	19	9.11	7.59	6.00-12.37	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	7	-	-	-	-
Drafters IV	17	8.86	8.38	8.05- 9.78	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	6	2	1	1	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Electronics technicians	32	11.75	10.56	9.63-14.74	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	3	5	4	4	2	-	-	-	8	4	-
Electronics technicians II	11	11.30	9.58	- -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-
Electronics technicians III	21	11.99	10.88	10.28-14.74	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	4	4	2	-	-	-	8	-	-
Maintenance electricians	132	12.94	13.16	10.68-15.49	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	13	30	3	15	-	-	28	38	-
Maintenance painters	24	12.91	13.31	11.50-13.52	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	3	1	12	1	3	-
Maintenance machinists	135	11.36	10.53	9.92-14.46	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	6	9	6	15	23	14	3	12	4	-	38	-	-
Maintenance mechanics (machinery)	268	12.47	10.78	9.96-15.78	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	29	19	2	20	27	40	4	-	-	-	125	-
Maintenance pipefitters	113	13.24	14.38	11.20-15.26	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	7	17	3	16	4	-	25	38	-
Motor vehicle mechanics	108	14.19	13.95	13.60-15.78	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	1	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	51	-	48	-
General maintenance workers	148	8.07	7.95	7.10- 9.35	-	3	4	6	-	3	10	8	10	33	25	-	12	3	2	29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stationary engineers	23	11.51	10.67	10.65-11.95	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	9	1	4	-	-	4	-	-
Truckdrivers	31	9.21	9.81	8.50-10.36	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	8	1	11	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Truckdrivers, heavy truck	18	9.54	9.86	9.83-10.36	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	6	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shipping packers	74	7.84	9.10	4.70- 9.16	2	9	4	8	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	34	10	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
Material handling laborers	127	10.38	11.41	9.05-11.41	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	18	-	-	27	-	-	-	80	-	1	-	-	-	-
Forklift operators	290	10.15	9.47	8.25-12.30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	42	30	4	71	18	20	-	14	-	50	39	-	-	-
Guards	63	8.77	9.40	5.75-11.43	-	1	3	2	9	7	1	1	1	1	3	-	3	2	13	-	1	2	1	12	-	-	-
Guards I	63	8.77	9.40	5.75-11.43	-	1	3	2	9	7	1	1	1	1	3	-	3	2	13	-	1	2	1	12	-	-	-
Janitors, porters, and cleaners	290	8.01	8.68	5.06-10.17	9	22	15	23	5	13	18	-	2	21	15	43	8	20	10	-	33	10	23	-	-	-	-

[1] Excludes premium pay for overtime and for work on weekends, holidays, and late shifts. Also excluded are performance bonuses and lump-sum payments of the type negotiated in the auto and aerospace industries, as well as profit-sharing payments, attendance bonuses, Christmas or year-end bonuses, and other nonproduction bonuses. Cost of living allowances and incentive payments, however, are included. Hourly earnings reported for salaried workers are derived from regular salaries divided by the corresponding standard hours of work. The wages of learners, apprentices, and handicapped workers are excluded. The mean is computed for each job by totaling the earnings of all workers and dividing by the number of workers. The median designates position—one-half of the workers receive the same as or more and one-half receive the same as or less than the rate shown. The middle range is defined by two rates of pay; one-fourth of the workers earn the same as or less than the lower of these rates and one-fourth earn the same as or more than the higher rate.

[2] For occupations with more than one level, data are included in the overall classification when a subclassification is not shown or information to subclassify is not available.

Table 2. Annual paid holidays for full-time workers in Northern New York, June 1985

Item	Production and related workers	Office workers
All full-time workers (in percent)	100	100
In establishments not providing paid holidays	3	[1]
In establishments providing paid holidays	97	99
Number of holidays:		
3 holidays	[1]	[1]
5 holidays	3	[1]
6 holidays	1	1
7 holidays	3	5
8 holidays	4	3
Plus 1 half day	1	1
Plus 2 half days	-	2
9 holidays	4	1
10 holidays	26	20
11 holidays	16	42
12 holidays	18	9
13 holidays	15	13
14 holidays	5	3
Average number of paid holidays where provided (in days)	10.7	10.8

[1] Less than 0.5 percent.

Note: Because of rounding, sums of individual items may not equal totals.

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Table 3. Paid vacation provisions[1] for full-time workers in Northern New York, June 1985

Item	Production and related workers	Office workers
All full-time workers (in percent)	100	100
In establishments not providing paid vacations	(2)	-
In establishments providing paid vacations	99	100
Length-of-time payment	88	100
Percentage payment	12	-
By vacation pay provisions for:[3]		
6 months of service:		
Under 1 week	17	16
1 week	16	48
Over 1 and under 2 weeks	5	17
1 year of service:		
1 week	74	19
Over 1 and under 2 weeks	4	-
2 weeks	21	78
Over 2 and under 3 weeks	1	3
2 years of service:		
1 week	56	9
Over 1 and under 2 weeks	8	-
2 weeks	34	86
Over 2 and under 3 weeks	-	(2)
3 weeks	2	4
3 years of service:		
1 week	-	1
Over 1 and under 2 weeks	4	-
2 weeks	85	85
Over 2 and under 3 weeks	5	3
3 weeks	5	10
5 years of service:		
2 weeks	66	39
Over 2 and under 3 weeks	10	5
3 weeks	24	57
10 years of service:		
2 weeks	(2)	1
Over 2 and under 3 weeks	4	-
3 weeks	79	82
Over 3 and under 4 weeks	11	7
4 weeks	5	9
15 years of service:		
2 weeks	(2)	1
3 weeks	22	14
Over 3 and under 4 weeks	4	-
4 weeks	69	78
Over 4 and under 5 weeks	5	4
5 weeks	-	2
20 years of service:		
2 weeks	(2)	1
3 weeks	8	10
Over 3 and under 4 weeks	4	-
4 weeks	40	64
Over 4 and under 5 weeks	2	-
5 weeks	46	22
6 weeks	-	2
25 years of service:		
2 weeks	(2)	1
3 weeks	8	3
Over 3 and under 4 weeks	4	-
4 weeks	12	37
5 weeks	55	51
6 weeks	21	8
30 years of service:		
2 weeks	(2)	1
3 weeks	8	3
Over 3 and under 4 weeks	4	-
4 weeks	12	37
5 weeks	36	25
6 weeks	40	34
Maximum vacation available:		
2 weeks	(2)	1
3 weeks	8	3
Over 3 and under 4 weeks	4	-
4 weeks	12	37
5 weeks	33	25
6 weeks	43	34

[1] Includes basic plans only. Excludes plans such as vacation bonus, vacation-savings, and those plans which offer 'extended' or 'sabbatical' benefits beyond basic plans to workers with qualifying lengths of service. Typical of such exclusions are plans in the steel, aluminum, and can industries.

[2] Less than 0.5 percent.

[3] Includes payment other than 'length of time,' such as percentage of annual earnings or flat-sum payments converted to an equivalent time basis; a payment of 2 percent of annual earnings was considered as 1 week's pay. Periods of service were chosen arbitrarily and do not necessarily reflect individual provisions for progression. For example, the changes in proportions at 10 years' service include changes in provisions occurring between 5 and 10 years. Estimates are cumulative. Thus, the proportion eligible for at least 3 weeks' pay after 10 years includes those eligible for at least 3 weeks' pay after fewer years of service.

Note: Because of rounding, sums of individual items may not equal totals.

Table 4. Health, insurance, and pension plans offered to full-time workers in Northern New York, June 1985

Item	Production and related workers	Office workers
All full-time workers (in percent)	100	100
In establishments offering at least one of the benefits shown below[1]	96	99
Life insurance	95	99
Noncontributory plans	82	92
Accidental death and dismemberment insurance	84	95
Noncontributory plans	72	83
Sickness and accident insurance or sick leave or both[2]	82	89
Sickness and accident insurance	79	75
Noncontributory plans	72	60
Sick leave (full pay and no waiting period)	22	61
Sick leave (partial pay or waiting period)	-	4
Long-term disability insurance	23	56
Noncontributory plans	19	46
Hospitalization insurance	96	99
Noncontributory plans	82	73
Surgical insurance	96	99
Noncontributory plans	82	73
Medical insurance	96	99
Noncontributory plans	82	73
Major medical insurance	85	99
Noncontributory plans	78	71
Dental insurance	70	79
Noncontributory plans	65	64
Health maintenance organization	7	6
Noncontributory plans	7	4
Retirement pension	86	95
Noncontributory plans	81	95

[1] Estimates listed after type of benefit are for all plans for which at least part of the cost is borne by the employer. 'Noncontributory plans' include only those financed entirely by the employer. Excluded are legally required plans such as workers' compensation, social security, and railroad retirement.

[2] Unduplicated total of workers receiving sick leave or sickness and accident insurance shown separately below. Sick leave plans are limited to those which definitely establish at least the minimum number of days' pay that each employee can expect. Informal sick leave allowances determined on an individual basis are excluded.

Table 5. Establishments and workers within scope of survey and number studied in Northern New York,[1] June 1985

Industry division[2]	Minimum employment in establishments in scope of survey	Number of establishments		Workers in establishments				
		Within scope of survey[3]	Studied	Within scope of survey				Studied[4]
				Total[5]		Full-time production and related workers	Full-time office workers	
				Number	Percent			
All divisions	50	133	56	26,368	100	16,147	2,974	17,868
Manufacturing	50	53	27	17,901	68	13,054	1,792	14,167
Nonmanufacturing[6]	50	80	29	8,467	32	3,093	1,182	3,701

[1] The Northern New York area consists of Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence Counties. The "workers within scope of survey" estimates shown in this table provide a reasonably accurate description of the size and composition of the labor force included in the survey. The estimates are not intended, however, to serve as a basis of comparison with other statistical series for the area to measure employment trends or levels since (1) planning of wage surveys requires the use of establishment data compiled considerably in advance of the payroll period studied, and (2) small establishments are excluded from the scope of the survey.

[2] The 1972 edition of the Standard Industrial Classification Manual was used in classifying establishments by industry division.

[3] Includes all establishments with total employment at or above the minimum limitation. All outlets of companies in such industries as trade, finance, auto repair service, and motion picture theaters (within a Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area or nonmetropolitan county) are considered as one establishment.

[4] Includes executive, professional, part-time, and other workers excluded from the separate production and office categories.

[5] Includes transportation, communication, and other public utilities (excluding taxicabs and services incidental to water transportation); wholesale trade; retail trade; finance, insurance, and real estate; hotels and other lodging places; laundries and other personal services; automobile repair, rental, and parking; motion pictures; nonprofit membership organizations (excluding religious and charitable organizations); engineering and architectural services; and miscellaneous business services. Major industries excluded from this survey are agriculture; mining; construction; some services (notably educational institutions and medical services); and government operations.

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